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FIFA FEVER KICKS OFF WITH KARINA
metroTALKS

WHERE ARE THE WOMEN?

Figures show that the proportion of female appointees has mostly hovered around 30 per cent since the Conservative government took office. ISTOCK

EXCLUSIVE

Higher number of men appointed to federal bodies

Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

Most of the people appointed to federal bodies since 2006 have been men, which, at least in the official Opposition's eyes, suggests gender equality is not a priority for the Conservative government.

The Tories have made 5,833 governor-in-council appointments since they came to office more than nine years ago. Of those, only 1,864 — or about 32 per cent — have been women.

Governor-in-council appointments are made on advice of the cabinet. They range from heads of agencies and Crown corporation CEOs to members of quasi-judicial tribunals.

Figures on the number of female governor-in-council appointees were provided in response to an order paper question by New Democrat MP Mylène Freeman, the party's status of women critic.

The figures show the proportion of female appointees to tribunals, agencies, boards and Crown corporations has mostly hovered around 30 per cent for each year since the Conservatives took office. The number was 37 per cent under the Liberals in 2005.

"It shows that there hasn't been much progress; that we're really working at a snail's pace in terms of achieving equality," Freeman said. "These are nominations; there's absolutely no excuse for it to be nowhere near parity yet."

The NDP introduced a bill last year that would have gradually increased the number of women on Crown corporation boards of directors to achieve equal representation within six years, but it was voted down.

There is precedent for such regulation; a 2006 Quebec law requires male-female parity on Crown corporation boards.

Status of Women Minister Kellie Leitch said in a statement that the government is committed to promoting women's participation in leadership roles in both the public and private sector.

"Women hold some of the highest positions of leadership federally, including the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Clerk of the Privy Council," she said.

The issue is not a shortage in the talent pool, said Nancy Peckford, executive director of Equal Voice, an organization dedicated to electing more women to political office in Canada.

"There has to be a bit of a shift in the mindset," she said. "It's an issue of what Canadians expect from their governments in terms of these public appointments."

> **"It shows that there hasn't been much progress; that we're really working at a snail's pace in terms of achieving equality.**
> NDP MP Mylène Freeman, status of women critic

Keisha Ling Ling H
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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

U.S. city leaders want sharing economy to grow. **Business**

O'CONNOR STREET

$4M bike lane passes checkpoint

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

Given the once drawn-out controversy over the east-west Laurier Avenue bike lane, there was little fanfare about the O'Connor Street link at the transportation committee meeting on Wednesday.

The committee approved the $4-million cycling route along O'Connor Street from Fifth Avenue to Wellington Street. Council must give the final approval.

While many cycling advocates have praised the route north of Strathcona Avenue — a mix of two-way and one-way bike lanes — the southern area of shared-use routes has been more controversial among those wanting safer bike routes and those wanting to keep parking available.

As a compromise, Capital Ward Coun. David Chernushenko asked staff to extend the bike lane further south to Glebe Avenue — except for the block between Patterson and Monkland avenues, which will be shared-use.

"Initially, we were aiming very much for consistency," Chernushenko said. "On further reflection, and with input from a lot of affected people, we thought let's go with inconsistency and put in bike lanes where we can."

Chernushenko also asked for a speed limit reduction to 30 km/h from Pretoria to Holmwood, an east-side lane from Glebe to First for school bus drop-offs, plus more "traffic calming measures" — like speed bumps.

CLOSING CEREMONY TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION Prime Minister Stephen Harper, from left, Terry Audla, President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and AFN Chief Perry Bellegarde listen during the closing ceremony of the Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission, at Rideau Hall on Wednesday. More coverage, page 12. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

U of O team back from suspension

HOCKEY

Men's program halted after sexual assault allegations

Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

The University of Ottawa is relaunching its men's hockey program 15 months after it was suspended over allegations of sexual misconduct.

In its announcement Wednesday, the university said the team will be ready to compete in the 2016-17 season.

The university said it has put measures in place to create the "appropriate environment" for relaunching the team, including new behavioural guidelines for varsity athletes, orientations about topics including hazing and harassment, and mandatory harassment and sexual violence training for all varsity athletes and full-time coaching staff.

"We are confident these measures will foster a positive environment for our student athletes and coaching staff," director of sports services Marc Schryburt said.

The relaunch will begin Thursday with the search for a new head coach. Former head coach Réal Paiement was dismissed when the program was suspended. Once a coach is hired, the program will start recruiting new players.

The university suspended the program in March 2014 after allegations arose of a sexual assault on a road trip to Thunder Bay, Ont., three weeks earlier, as well as what university president Allan Rock later called "widespread behaviour that was disreputable" and suggested an "unhealthy climate."

Two players on the team were charged last summer with sexually assaulting a female Lakehead University student.

In January, the university extended the suspension to include the upcoming 2015-16 season.

The relaunch comes after "an extensive examination of procedures, practices and culture following the suspension of the program," the release said.

9

The university has also created a nine-member "relaunch committee" comprised of U of O alumni and local business leaders, including Ottawa Senators president Cyril Leeder and Gee-Gees hockey alumnus Jean Lépine.

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& Taking trash making art

Ottawa music teachers Melanie Reeks and Jeannie Hunter don't usually see a lot of drilling, painting or welding in their classrooms — but their musical furniture fundraising project is changing that. **Haley Ritchie** METRO

When the two Hillcrest Public School teachers received a bunch of string instruments broken beyond repair, they weren't sure what to do with them.

"We're musicians and instruments have voices. We couldn't just throw them out, that would be wrong," said music teacher Jeannie Hunter.

The school's music program needed a fundraiser for new instruments, so the old violins, cellos and a clarinet were transformed with an idea fit for HGTV.

With some help from students and other teachers, Hunter and fellow music teacher Melanie Reeks turned the old instruments into furniture and art. There's eight unique pieces, including two lamps, a clock, a coat rack and a wine rack.

"It's kind of scary, because we spend our whole lives respecting instruments and making sure that they're well taken care of," said Hunter.

"So when we sit down to drill a hole in a violin, it's a little nerve-racking."

Drilling wasn't the only thing happening to the discarded instruments either: Reeks and Hunter had their students painting and collaging, and for one project the school's shop teacher helped out with welding equipment.

"The kids have just been so excited. It's really built a buzz," said Hunter.

The closed auction, taking place through e-mail, ends on Friday. So far each piece has already been bid on.

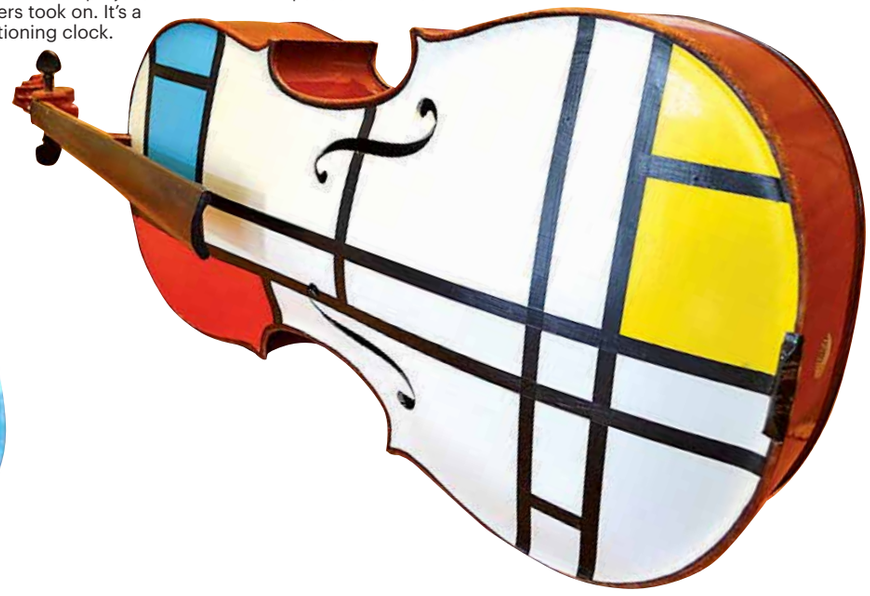
Money raised through the sale will go towards refurbishing old instruments and purchasing new ones for the school.

❶ Timepiece

Created over March break, this is one of the first instrument-turned-décor project the teachers took on. It's a fully-functioning clock.

❷ Chanson

Painted by one of the school's art teachers, this old cello was no longer making music. Instead, it's now an art piece painted in the style of French painter Mondrian.



❸ Fine tuned

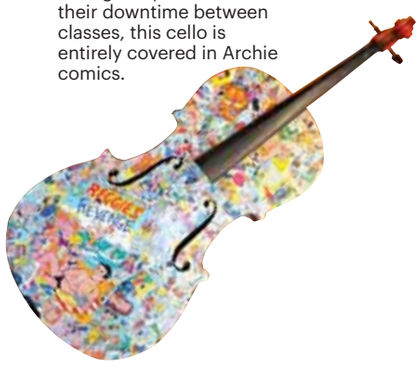
The one that started it all: the violin lamp, set up in the school's music room, provided the original inspiration for the auction fundraiser.

❹ Cello rack

Jeannie Hunter breathed some new life into a broken coat rack, combining it via welding with a tiny cello in the school's auto shop.

❺ Comic collage

Collaged by students on their downtime between classes, this cello is entirely covered in Archie comics.



❻ Singing violin

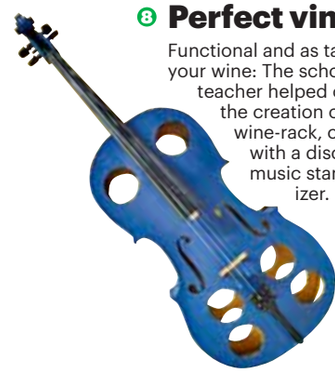
Another stand-alone art piece, sheet music was collaged onto the surface of an old violin. The description beside the display: "this violin art piece sings for itself."

❼ Broken-down clarinet

The only non-string themed piece in the auction, this functioning clock was created out of a broken clarinet.

❽ Perfect vintage

Functional and as tasteful as your wine: The school's shop teacher helped out with the creation of this wine-rack, complete with a discarded music stand stabilizer.



Community Safety Minister Yasir Naqvi says there will soon be stricter limits on what police record checks can disclose in Ontario. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Police record checks to be tightened

LEGISLATION

Disclosures have been said to cost people employment

Police won't be able to disclose mental health records such as suicide attempts to potential employers or others requesting record checks and will only disclose non-conviction records such as acquittals in limited circumstances under new Ontario legislation.

Civil liberties and mental health advocates have long complained that non-conviction records have been inappropriately disclosed, creating barriers for people's education, volunteering, employment and other opportunities.

There are currently no province-wide standards on what type of information can be disclosed, but the Liberal government intends to create those standards with the Police Record Checks Reform Act.

"We heard from hardworking Ontarians who lost their job or were unable to find employment because of past incidents involving mental health contact with police," Community Safety Minister Yasir Naqvi said Wednesday.

Under the act, non-conviction records such as withdrawn or dismissed charges, acquittals and findings of "not criminally responsible by reason of mental disorder" could be disclosed only through some vulnerable sector checks, for people working or volunteering with children and seniors.

Police will have to consider factors such as how long ago an incident took place, if the record relates to predatory behaviour around a vulnerable person and whether the records show a pattern of such behaviour before deciding whether to release those records in a vulnerable sector check. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

'Salesman' charged in 2008 sexual assault

Ottawa police have laid sexual assault charges in relation to a complaint from a woman about a door-to-door salesman.

Police say last November a woman filed a report about an incident that happened in October 2008 at an apartment near Merivale Road and Kirkwood Avenue.

Police say they are not releasing more details about the incident in order to protect the complainant's identity.

Dodji Serge Wilson, 39, of Ottawa, is charged with sexual assault, assault, forcible confinement, criminal harassment and possession of a controlled substance.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Ottawa Police Service sexual assault and child abuse section at 613-236-1222 ext. 5944.

JOE LOFARO/METRO

EMPLOYMENT

Province lays out plan to address accessibility for those with disabilities

The Ontario government says its latest plan to address accessibility issues for people with disabilities will rekindle momentum for a movement that has lost energy in recent years.

The Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure has laid out an action plan to bring the province closer to compliance with the Access for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, which is supposed to be fully in effect by 2025.

Minister Brad Duguid says the projects laid out in the plan will start going into effect over the next year in a bid to reinvigorate efforts to remove accessibility barriers.

Many of the initiatives focus on boosting employment for people with disabilities.

The government will spend $9 million on a program to provide job training and help businesses become more inclusive, as well as a loan program to reward companies that hire and retain disabled staff.

Future projects include a certification program to identify accessible businesses, a private-sector partnership to increase the number of accessibility audits, and an effort to make government documents and appeals processes accessible for all.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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HEARTFELT CEREMONY ENDS WORK OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION Participants with hearts on gardening stakes make their way to the planting of a "heart garden" as part of the closing ceremony of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission at Rideau Hall in Ottawa on Wednesday. More coverage, page 12. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Liberals clear way for Hydro One sale

BUDGET

Government hopes to raise $9B from sale of giant utility

Ontario's Liberal government used its majority Wednesday to pass the omnibus budget bill, which clears the way for the sale of Hydro One, the huge transmission utility.

The government hopes to raise $9 billion by selling 60 per cent of Hydro One, starting with 15 per cent this year, and will use $5 billion to pay down hydro debt and $4 billion on public transit and infrastructure projects.

"This was a difficult decision, but it is the right decision because if we do not do this, we cannot make the investments in transit and transportation infrastructure," Premier Kathleen Wynne told the legislature.

The Progressive Conservatives and NDP warned electricity prices will rise, the government will lose control of Hydro One and legislative watchdogs like the ombudsman and auditor general will lose oversight of the utility.

Ombudsman Andre Marin recently released a scathing report into 10,700 complaints about erroneous bills and "abominable" customer service by Hydro One.

40%

The amount of Hydro One that Premier Kathleen Wynne says the province will continue to own in order to retain control of the utility.

"You may think you're helping yourself politically by removing this oversight. In reality, without these checks, you will become more arrogant, more reckless, which will lead to even greater scandals," warned PC energy critic John Yakabuski.

Wynne said the Liberals took steps to protect the public by ensuring that no one individual will own more than 10 per cent of Hydro One, that the Ontario Energy Board will continue to set prices and that the government would retain control of the utility by owning at least 40 per cent.

New Democrat Leader Andrea Horwath flatly rejected the premier's arguments.

"Earth to premier: nobody believes any of that about the 40 per cent and about the 10 per cent," said Horwath. "Nobody believes any of that."

The sale of Hydro One will "benefit banks, off-shore investors and a small group of the premier's powerful friends," added Horwath, who wants a referendum so the public can approve — or reject — the sale.

The NDP caucus turned their backs on the Liberals as each MPP stood to vote against the budget bill. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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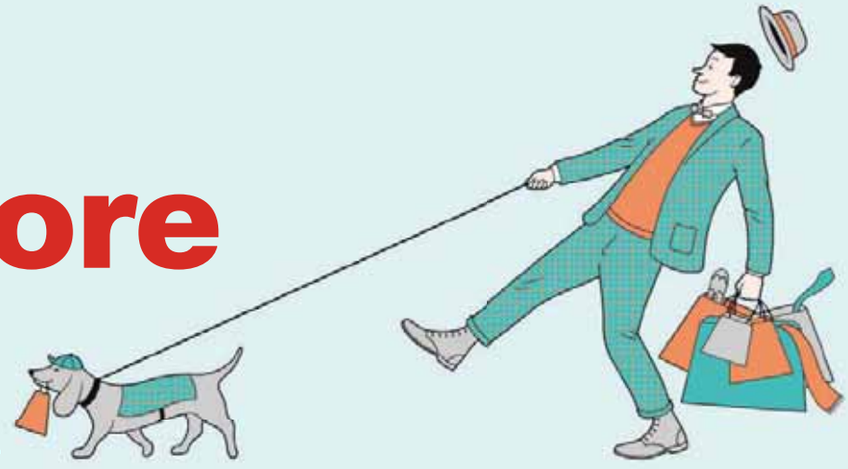

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Suspended senator Mike Duffy arrives at court in Ottawa on Tuesday. Duffy faces 31 charges, including fraud, breach of trust and bribery. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Duffy trial may extend into late fall

POLITICS

Proceedings would clash with election campaign

The trial of suspended senator Mike Duffy will run at least into the summer months, butting up against the federal election campaign.

Justice Charles Vaillancourt says the court will sit from Aug. 11 to Aug. 28, and then again, if necessary, from Nov. 18 to Dec. 18.

This means that witnesses — including senior Conservative senators and the prime minister's former chief of staff Nigel Wright — could be testifying just as the party leaders prepare to hit the campaign trail.

Already, a leaders' debate hosted by Maclean's magazine is scheduled for August.

The weeks in August became available last week, when former Liberal senator Mac Harb agreed that his own fraud and bribery trial could be postponed.

Duffy has pleaded not guilty to 31 charges of fraud, breach of trust and bribery in connection to his Senate office, living and travel claims. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Police offer $50K reward over unsolved homicide

In the desperate search for clues surrounding the unsolved murder of Yusuf Ibrahim, Ottawa police announced Wednesday there is now a $50,000 reward for information leading to an arrest or prosecution of those responsible.

Ibrahim, 27, was gunned down in a daylight shooting on Feb. 6 at 181 Forestglade Cres., near the intersection of Hunt Club Road and Hawthorne Road. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Police had previously confirmed he was a known gang member and was known to police in relation to his involvement in gang activity.

In March, the Major Crime Unit released surveillance footage of three persons of interest in the homicide. JOE LOFARO/METRO

EUGENE MELNYK

Sens owner discharged

Ottawa Senators owner Eugene Melnyk has been discharged from a Toronto hospital after undergoing a successful liver transplant last month.

"Mr. Melnyk's recovery has been proceeding very well since undergoing his transplant," Dr. Atul Humar, director of the multi-organ transplant program at University Health Network, said in a team statement.

"As with all of our transplant patients, Mr. Melnyk has been monitored closely by his transplant team, and his general health has improved to the point where he can begin the next phase of his recovery.

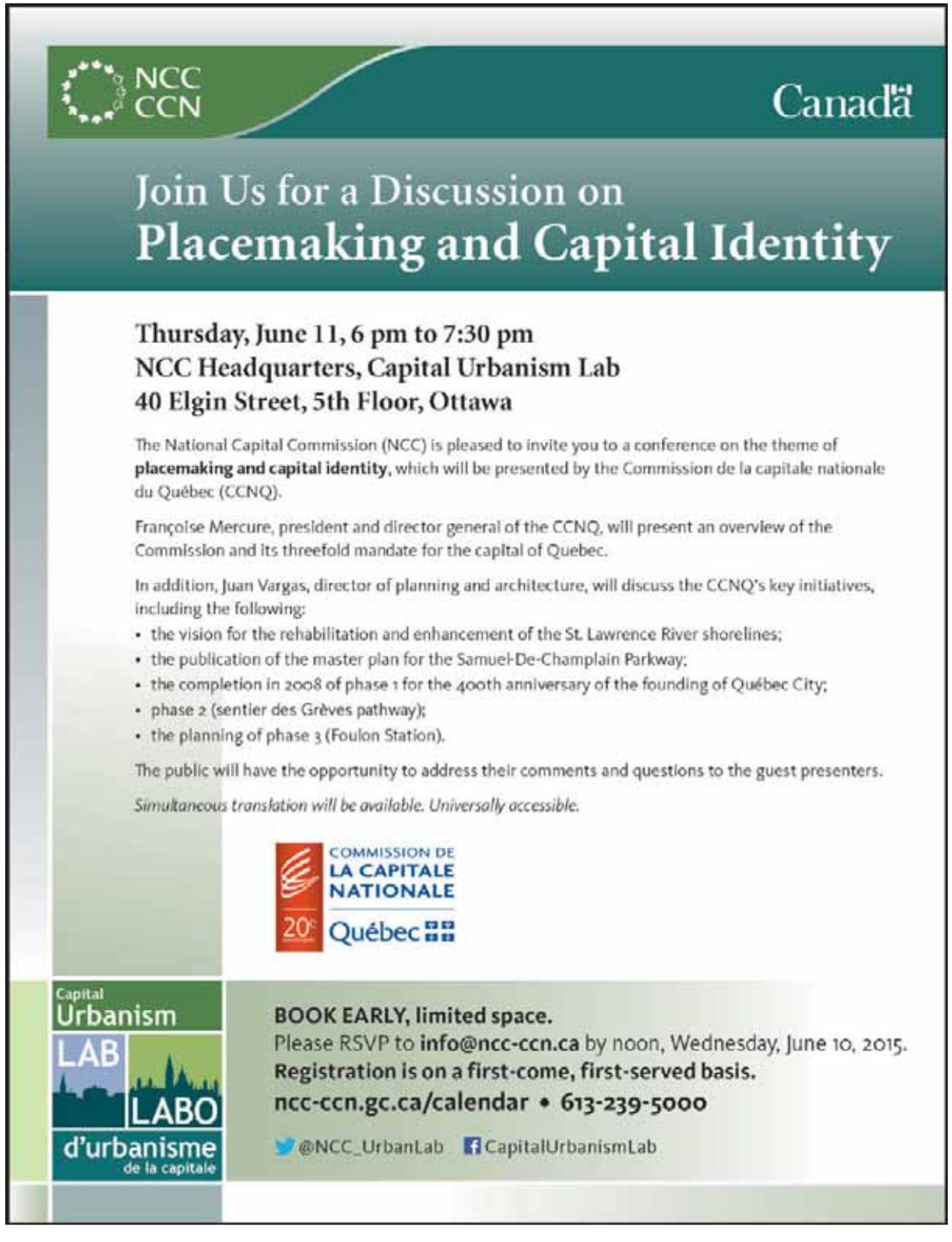
"In addition, we are pleased to report that the anonymous donor has also been discharged and is doing extremely well."

Melnyk was discharged earlier this week, the statement said. His post-transplant recovery will require weekly follow-up with his transplant team, and he has been transferred to a facility that will provide him with daily services.

More than 500 people offered to be a donor for the billionaire owner following a public appeal by the team. Melnyk was suffering end-stage liver failure due to an undisclosed disease.

Doctors performed the transplant on May 19. Liver transplant recipients typically stay in hospital for up to two weeks, then take three to six months to recover. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Eugene Melnyk ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS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Françoise Mercure, president and director general of the CCNQ, will present an overview of the Commission and its threefold mandate for the capital of Quebec.
In addition, Juan Vargas, director of planning and architecture, will discuss the CCNQ's key initiatives, including the following:
• the vision for the rehabilitation and enhancement of the St. Lawrence River shorelines;
• the publication of the master plan for the Samuel-De-Champlain Parkway;
• the completion in 2008 of phase 1 for the 400th anniversary of the founding of Québec City;
• phase 2 (sentier des Grèves pathway);
• the planning of phase 3 (Foulon Station).
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Strike might impact exams

SCHOOLS

Teachers told to use their 'professional discretion'

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Some Ottawa students might not be writing exams or completing final projects as work-to-rule action gives teachers a licence to change courses in the final weeks of school.

High school teachers have been advised by the union to use their "professional direction" when it comes to administering final assignments and exams.

"Our direction to our members is that they should be using their professional judgement to determine which is best for their students in their classroom," said Dan Maxwell, president of the Ottawa chapter of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation.

"They will get a mark regardless of the assessment," he said.

"We are as concerned for student success as anybody, more so than most."

In Ontario, 30 per cent of a student's final grade is determined by end-of-year assignments. In the Ottawa-Carleton district, teachers are recommended to split that grade between an exam and a "cumulative" project, often a long-form essay.

This advice is being disregarded as part of the strike, and students may be only writing an exam or finishing a project.

High school teachers have been advised to use "professional discretion" when it comes to administering final assignments and exams. TOPHER SEGUIN/FOR METRO

> **They will get a mark regardless of the assessment.**
> Dan Maxwell

While some students may be relying on final exams to boost their marks, the majority on Twitter were hoping for cancellations and frustrated by mixed messages.

"It'd be nice if exams were either cancelled or not. It's unfair that some of our peers have no exams while some still have 3 or 4," tweeted A.Y. Jackson student Kevin Anderson on Monday.

The school board has also said that report cards will be delayed, since administrative staff will be inputting grades into the electronic system. Marks for graduating Grade 12 students will be given priority.

The union is still allowing teachers to participate in graduation ceremonies, but the board has warned that marks may not be processed in time to hand out academic awards.

LABOUR

Unions issue dire warning about cuts

The unions representing staff working in Ottawa's schools said Wednesday that government austerity cuts are a danger to their workers and students.

"The government appears unwilling, or perhaps lacks the necessary skills and knowledge, to effectively govern a province," said Sean McKenny, president of the Ottawa and District Labour Council.

The unions are upset about funding cuts that will eliminate jobs in the school boards, and the recently enacted back-to-work legislation that ended a high school teacher walkout in the province.

Brian Orser, who represents facilities staff within the schools, said he's also concerned about a $500-million maintenance backlog within the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB).

Mike Carson, the board's chief financial officer, said that while the number is substantial, it just means the board is forced to stretch the life span of things like carpets and ventilation systems.

> **The government appears unwilling ... to effectively govern a province**
> Sean McKenny

He said they would still be repaired and replaced if deemed unsafe.

The unions also spoke out about job cuts, including the proposed 30 full-time-equivalent jobs that will be reduced so that OCDSB can deal with its multi-million-dollar deficit.

The seven unions have sent a joint letter to the government, calling for an end to cuts in the public sector. HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

BARGAINING WHAT IS THE TOP PRIORITY?

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Asked to name the No. 1 priority for each bargaining group, union representatives spoke out at a joint news conference. This is what some officials had to say:

Peter Giuliani
President, Ottawa Carleton Elementary Teachers' Federation

Staffing, particularly ... overcrowding in relation to kindergarten and the lack of support for mental health issues.

Michelle Pierce
Representative for Ottawa English Catholic Teachers Association

Everything from benefits, to wages, to working conditions to access to support ... maintain at minimum what we have.

Dan Maxwell
President, Teachers Bargaining Unit, OSSTF District 25

We have class size caps... It protects student learning conditions and it's vital to us that those size caps be retained.

Sherry Bellefeuille
Representative for Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 2357

For CUPE our main issue is violence in the workplace. We need enough staff to provide ... a safe work environment.

Brian Orser
President, Union of Needle Trades Local 272

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BACKSTAGE PASS

Zaphod's returns Full Flavour Thursdays

Trevor Greenway
Metro | Ottawa

Matty McGovern hasn't fully decided what beat he'll first drop when Full Flavour Thursdays return to Zaphod's this week after a long, three-year hiatus.

It'll likely be some classic Run-DMC, the razor-sharp rhymes of Ultramagnetic MCs or some peanut-buttery De La Soul — familiar tunes that will preheat the dance floor for what will surely be a cooking vibe when the sun goes down at Zaphod's this Thursday.

It's these types of nostalgic tunes that get hip-hop heads out in droves — everyone from the now-35-year-old dad who used to fist pump to Public Enemy's Fight the Power in high school to the fresh college students who crowd the club for Lil Jon or Ludacris favourites.

The eclectic crowd creates the perfect vibe in a room full of hip-hop lovers — both young and old(er) fans all collectively bumping uglies on the floor, while crooning along to hit after hit from era after era.

DETAILS

Full Flavour Thursdays run the first Thursday of every month at Zaphod Beeblebrox and will feature a rotating cast of local DJs for a bit of a different vibe every week.

Music starts at 9 p.m. with a $5 cover.

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Mangiacake is a slapstick comedy filmed in Ottawa about second-generation Italian sisters who move back home. It premieres Thursday in Ottawa. COURTESY WET UMBRELLA FILMS INC.

Film pokes fun at Italian family life

ARTS

Ottawa-made Mangiacake expected to sell out

Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

A local filmmaker hopes his first feature film, which borrows the name of a derogatory term for non-Italians, will leave people in stitches with his slapstick, family-fun humour.

Nathan Estabrooks, who grew up in Ottawa, expects it to be a sold-out show Thursday at the premiere of Mangiacake at the new Lansdowne Cinema.

Estabrooks learned the term a few years ago when his friend, Christina Cuffari — who plays a lead role in the new comedy — called him a "mangiacake" while they ate sushi one day.

"She explained what it meant, and I just thought it was hilarious," he told Metro on the eve of the premiere.

Cuffari plays Marie, who is forced to move back home with her younger sister Tessa, played by Melanie Scrofano, to live with their mother and over-the-top nonna (grandmother).

Marie and Tessa quickly become drawn into a tug-of-war over who is the better sister, as the eldest distances herself from her Italian roots and dates a "mangiacake," to the chagrin of her proud Italian sister.

While Estabrooks has butterflies in his stomach about the Ottawa premiere going off without a hitch, he's already proud of where the movie with a budget of a "new family sedan" is headed.

He's secured a week-long release at Toronto's Carlton Cinema on June 19 — the debut of the city's Taste of Italy Festival. The film will also be available on-demand through Bell, Telus and SaskTel and is destined for a digital release in the U.S. on Google Play, Hulu, and iTunes.

"It's a trippy experience," he said.

"I'm most excited about sitting in the theatre and hearing people laugh, because it's comedy and you never really know. The real reward is sitting there and actually hearing people react to it. That's a rush that I can't describe."

Estabrooks said making a movie here was "super easy" even on a tight budget but credited the film office at Invest Ottawa for supporting the production.

"They're always there to help someone, no matter how big or how small they are," said Estabrooks of Invest Ottawa, which took care of permits at parks and city streets and offered a list of local crews to assist the production.

ON THE WEB

More information about the movie is available at mangiacakemovie.com.

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PARLIAMENT SHOOTING

Canada 'ill-prepared' for terror attacks: OPP

As Michael Zehaf Bibeau ran toward the Centre Block on Oct. 22, the RCMP had more than one chance to stop him.

An officer in a cruiser could have blocked Zehaf Bibeau's path to the Centre Block but for a woman pushing a stroller who tried to jump into the car for safety.

A radio alert that a gunman was on Parliament Hill was so garbled that no one understood it. And the majority of security forces are stationed inside the Parliament Buildings, not outside. None of the officers stationed on the grounds stopped the gunman before he got through the doors — the result, the RCMP say, of systemic security issues, not human error.

"There is nobody from our perspective that is to blame for this," said RCMP assistant commissioner Gilles Michaud. He added no one has been disciplined for their actions on Oct. 22.

> **There is nobody from our perspective that is to blame for this.**
> Gilles Michaud, RCMP assistant commissioner

Yet the events from last October remain a "grim reminder that Canada is ill-prepared" to stop terrorist attacks, with the RCMP suffering a lack of "planning, training and resources" to protect the Parliament buildings, a long-awaited Ontario Provincial Police report says.

The report says the RCMP's ability to protect Parliament Hill has been stretched by resource issues stemming from budget cuts imposed in 2012 by the Conservative government.

"Fortunately," the report says, "the attacker was unorganized."

Had Zehaf Bibeau been better prepared, "the end results could have been much worse with the likelihood of many more casualties" and "devastating results." THE CANADIAN PRESS

CAMPAIGN

Mulcair to promise more funds for cities

NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair is promising to give Canadian cities dramatically more federal funding to pay for urban infrastructure, a big-ticket pledge that would help fuel Toronto's transit expansion, Torstar News Service has learned.

Mulcair is expected to make the promise Saturday when he speaks to municipal leaders gathered in Edmonton at the annual conference of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

The NDP is proposing to start by giving cities an extra cent of the federal gas tax, which would mean an extra $420 million a year.

STRATEGY

Mulcair is expected to use the keynote address to reveal a public-transit strategy, as well as a plan for more affordable housing.

They are vowing to boost funding by $1.5 billion by the end of their first term, meaning a total of $3.7 billion a year dedicated to "core infrastructure," according to a draft NDP document. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Nicholson expresses strong support for Israel

Foreign Affairs Minister Rob Nicholson is in Israel on a visit to show what he calls Canada's "unwavering support" for the Jewish state.

Nicholson's visit comes at a time when Israel faces increasing international criticism over its policies and the deadlock in peace talks with the Palestinians. Nicholson told Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday that "we understand that Israel's neighbourhood is as dangerous as Canada's is peaceful." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Woman killed by lion was Vancouver-based visual-effects editor

A woman who was mauled to death by a lioness in South Africa was a Vancouver-based visual-effects editor, her family says.

Kate Chappell was a "brilliant, kind, adventurous" woman, according to her sister's Facebook page. Chappell worked on Godzilla, Captain America: The Winter Soldier and Divergent. She also contributed to a Game of Thrones episode that won an Emmy, says IMDB. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper hugs Elder Evelyn Commanda-Dewache, a residential-school survivor, during the closing ceremony of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Wednesday in Ottawa. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reconciliation must be a priority: Sinclair

ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

Parliament talk focuses on duty to act after report's release

Prime Minister Stephen Harper listened in silence Wednesday as the head of an exhaustive study of residential schools and their dark legacy urged all levels of government to make reconciliation and healing a top priority.

The results of that study demand a political response, said Justice Murray Sinclair, the chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that was established in 2007 to document the tragic history of residential schools in Canada.

Harper and Sinclair were among a large gathering of politicians, commissioners, residential-school survivors and members of the aboriginal community who gathered at Rideau Hall to formally close the commission's work. Neither Harper, Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Valcourt nor Environment Minister Leona Aglukkaq spoke at the event.

"The nearly 7,000 people who shared and recorded their experiences and reflections with us have talked about the connections between their residential-school experiences and many things that remain," Sinclair said.

It's the commission's responsibility to share these stories, he continued.

A summary of the commission's findings, which concluded that Canada's residential-school era constituted "cultural genocide," was released Tuesday. Along with it came 94 extensive recommendations that amounted to a comprehensive overhaul of the Crown's relationship with Aboriginal Peoples.

Since then, the daily question period has been dominated by debate about the extent of the government's duty to act on those recommendations — one of which was to adopt the UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

And for a second straight day, the government refused to acknowledge the commission's use of the phrase "cultural genocide," despite prodding from the opposition.

> **Canada is one of the only countries in the world where aboriginal and treaty rights are entrenched in our Constitution.**
> Mark Strahl, junior aboriginal affairs minister

New Democrat Leader Tom Mulcair said an NDP government would put a "filter" on its decisions to ensure they respect First Nations treaty rights and obligations and embark on a "vast consultation" on aboriginal education. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Words of warning from Australia

Australian aboriginal leaders in Alberta this week have a warning for Canadian First Nations celebrating the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report.

Don't get your hopes up, said Adrian Burragubba, leader of the Wagan and Jagalingou Traditional Owners Family Representative Council from the state of Queensland.

Australia held its own inquiry back in the 1990s into the removal of aboriginal children into state-run schools. The process resulted in a massive report and a national Sorry Day. Then prime minister Kevin Rudd formally apologized on behalf of the government.

> **You have to make people uncomfortable to make change ... In their comfort lies the continuation of disadvantage for First Nations people.**
> Adrian Burragubba, Aboriginal leader from the Australian state of Queensland

And that's about it, said Burragubba.

Burragubba, who is in Alberta as part of an international tour to raise awareness about his people's fight against a giant coal mine on their lands, said the Bringing Them Home report got headlines for a few days, then faded away.

"It's basically an emotional feel-good thing, and people moved on. The general population has this idea that our culture should be protected, but no one wants to help us out of poverty."

Like Canada's commission, Australia's report examined how aboriginal children were taken from their parents by government, welfare or church authorities and placed into institutional care or with non-indigenous foster families.

The practice lasted from the mid-1800s until the 1970s. The report found that between one in three and one in 10 aboriginal children were removed from their families as a result of government policy. THE CANADIAN PRESS

$10M payment was not a bribe: Sports minister

SOUTH AFRICA

Fikile Mbalula says money was for soccer development

South Africa's sports minister "categorically" denied on Wednesday that the $10 million paid to former FIFA official Jack Warner in 2008 was a bribe for his help in securing the World Cup.

Fikile Mbalula, however, said he couldn't say what Warner did with the money, which South Africa claims was "above board" and meant for soccer development in the Caribbean region.

What happened to the cash is "another story for investigators.... We don't know," Mbalula said. "We can't account for that."

Mbalula repeated the South African government's denials that the country paid bribes to win the right to host the 2010 tournament, as alleged in indictments from the U.S. Department of Justice. South Africa's government — and former president Thabo Mbeki — first denied any wrongdoing in the bid process last week.

The Justice Department believes that $10 million was sent by South Africa, through FIFA, to Warner in three wire transfers in 2008 as payback for him and two other then-FIFA executive committee members for backing South Africa in the 2004 vote. South Africa won the World Cup by four votes over Morocco, making the ballots of Warner and his two "co-conspirators" decisive.

Mbalula characterized the $10 million as an "above board payment" to help the game in the Caribbean.

Mbalula also insisted that the South African government had not contradicted itself after the emergence of a leaked letter from then-South African Football Association president Molefi Oliphant in 2008 asking FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke to send the $10 million to Warner from South Africa's World Cup funds.

South Africa's sports minister Fikile Mbalula speaks during a news conference in Johannesburg, South Africa, on Wednesday. THEMBA HADEBE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oliphant twice specified in the letter that the implicated Warner be in control of the money.

"The letter leaked to the media; we don't know why it was leaked in the first place because that correspondence was above board," Mbalula said, denying it suggested a bribe was paid. "Criminals can explain a bribe very well. I don't know how bribes work." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, SPORTS PAGE 25

CAPSIZED SHIP

China searches for 410 missing in river

Chinese authorities deployed scores more divers and a large crane as they escalated efforts Wednesday to recover more than 410 people believed to be trapped inside an overturned river cruise ship.

The capsizing late Monday of the multi-decked Eastern Star in the Yangtze River is on track to become the country's deadliest maritime disaster in seven decades. Chinese authorities have launched a high-profile response while tightly controlling media coverage. Premier Li Keqiang, the country's No. 2 political leader, has travelled to the disaster site in the Hubei province county of Jianli, where he urged "all-out," 24-7 efforts.

Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said the bodies of 26 victims have been pulled from the boat. Fourteen people survived, some of them by swimming ashore and three by being pulled out of the ship by rescuers on Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Boston terror suspect not shot in back: Leaders

A leader of Boston's African-American community said Wednesday that a police video of the fatal shooting of a terror suspect makes clear he "was not shot in the back."

Darnell Williams, head of the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts, said after viewing the video that he could "150 per cent corroborate" the police account of how the officers engaged with Usaama Rahim.

Boston Police Commissioner William Evans said officers confronted him because "military and law-enforcement lives were at threat."

Rahim had talked with another suspect about "committing beheadings" and "harming police officers," a law-enforcement official familiar with the investigation said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAPITOL

Man who landed on lawn with gyrocopter says his employer wants to fire him

A man who flew a gyrocopter through some of America's most restricted airspace before landing at the U.S. Capitol says his employer, the United States Postal Service, is taking steps to fire him.

Doug Hughes said Wednesday the agency intends to fire him for "unacceptable conduct" in the wake of his April 15 flight to call attention to campaign finance reform.

The Postal Service released a statement saying it does not comment on pending employee disciplinary matters.

A grand jury indicted Hughes on six charges that carry up to 9 1/2 years in prison.

Hughes, who lives in Ruskin, Fla., said he's received tremendous public support. The tail section of Hughes' gyrocopter carried a Postal Service logo, and Hughes was carrying letters for each member of Congress.

His next court appearance is June 20.

He has been ordered to wear a GPS monitoring device. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AIRSTRIKES

10,000 ISIL fighters killed: U.S. official

A U.S. official said Wednesday that more than 10,000 ISIL fighters have been killed by American-led airstrikes in Iraq and Syria in nine months, offering a body count for a campaign that has yet to blunt their advance.

Deputy Secretary of State Tony Blinken's figure came after a Paris conference on how to stop the extremists ended without any new strategy to halt their campaign. It also comes months after the Pentagon dismissed such counts as "simply not a relevant figure" in the fight against ISIL.

Meanwhile, ISIL launched a major attack on the predominantly Kurdish city of Hassakeh in northeastern Syria, according to activists and Syrian state media.

Speaking Wednesday to France Inter Radio a day after the Paris conference, Blinken said the airstrikes have been effective.

"We have seen enormous losses for Daesh," Blinken said, using an Arabic acronym for the group. "More than 10,000 since the beginning of this campaign. That will end up having an effect."

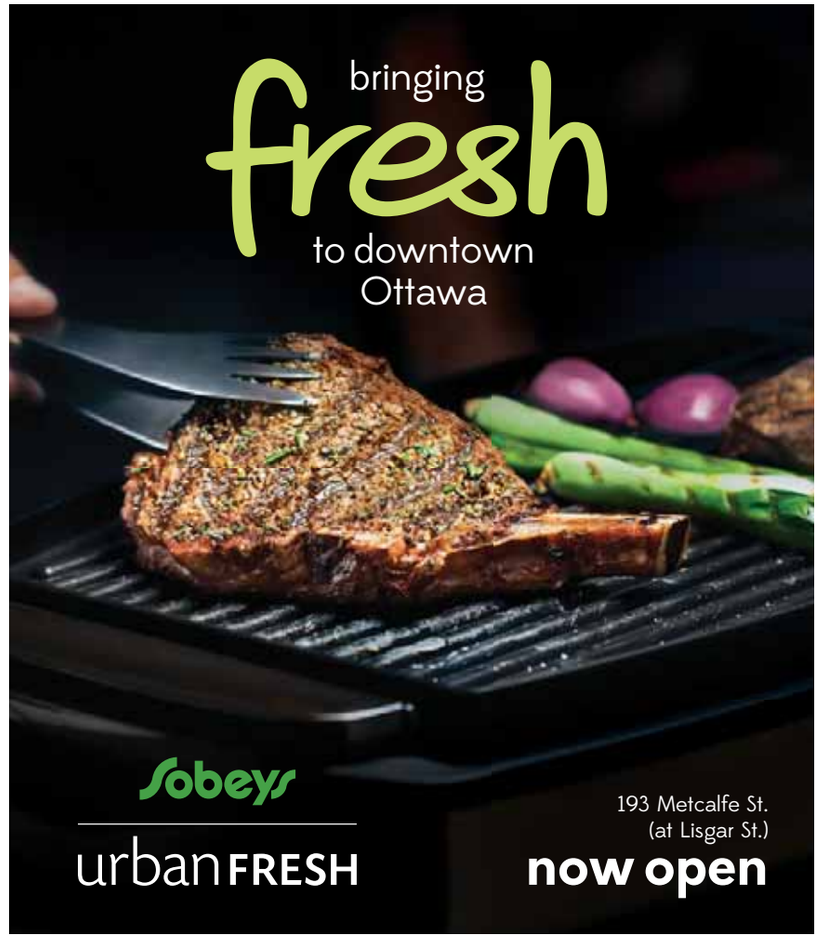
Blinken did not offer any figure for civilian casualties.

In September, the CIA said that ISIL has up to 31,500 fighters, meaning that could represent a loss of a third of its forces. Despite that, the extremists continue to attract more recruits from around the world who come to fight with the group to expand its self-declared caliphate in Syria and Iraq.

It's not clear why Blinken offered the figure, as the U.S. military in conflicts since the Vietnam War has been either hesitant or discounted such figures as indicators of success. Adm. John Kirby, a Pentagon spokesman, declined to offer them in January when asked by a reporter. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"The less of these guys that are out there, certainly that's the better, but the goal is to degrade and destroy their capabilities ... It's simply not a relevant figure."

John Kirby



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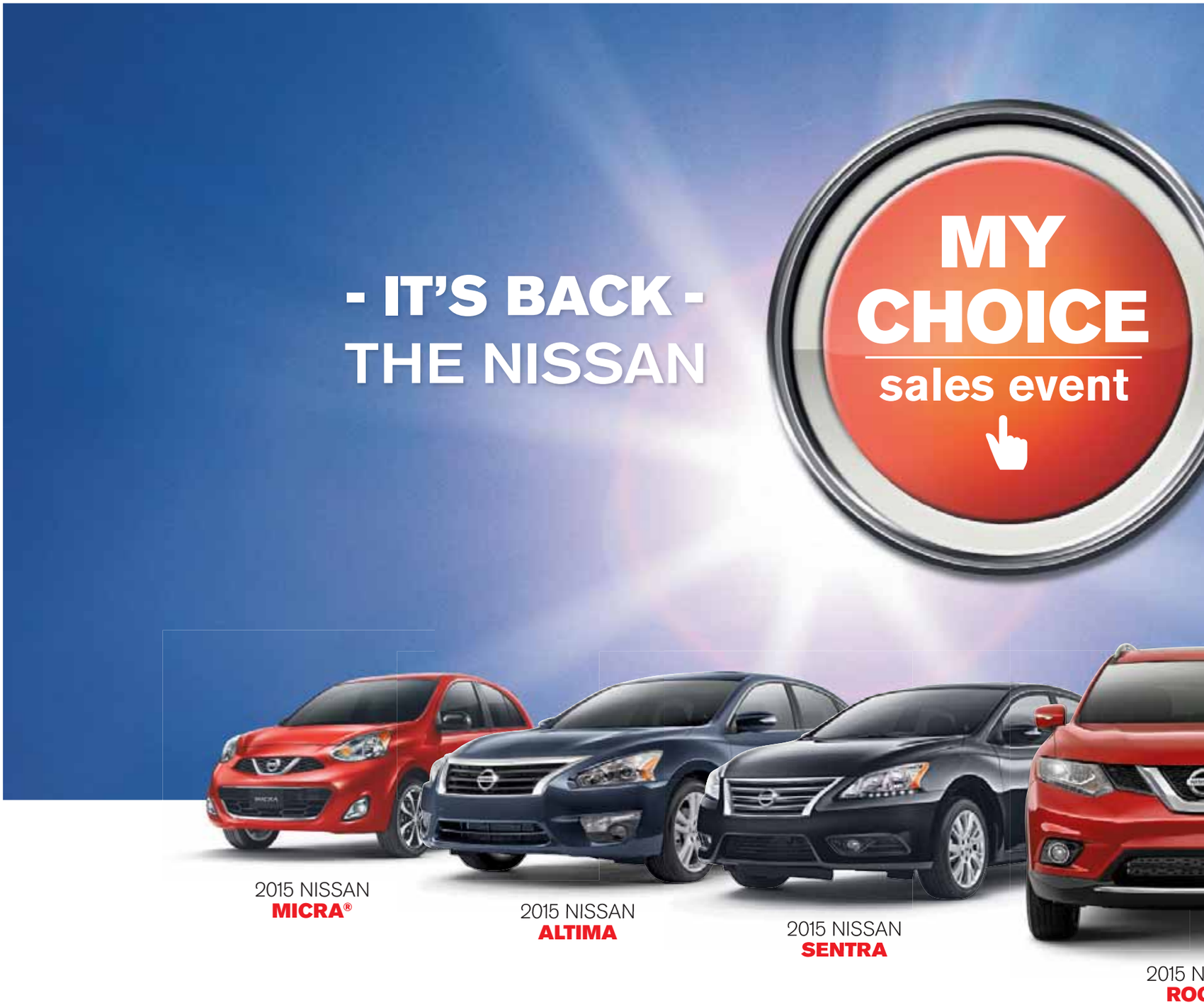

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THE MONARCHY

The Queen is, oops, Long live the Queen!

Buckingham Palace took the unusual step Wednesday of confirming that the Queen went to a hospital for her annual medical checkup after social media comments touched off speculation on her health.

The rare statement on a private matter for the Queen came after a tweet posted on the account of a BBC journalist said the 89-year-old monarch was being treated in the hospital and that more details would follow.

The tweet, which used a "breaking news" tag, was sent during a BBC rehearsal for the monarch's obituary, suggesting that the sender mistook the exercise for the real thing.

Screen grabs from social media suggest that a second tweet reported that the monarch had died. The journalist deleted the tweets.

"I can confirm that the Queen this morning attended her annual medical checkup at the King Edward VII's Hospital in London," said a palace representative, who spoke on customary condition of anonymity.

"This was a routine, prescheduled appointment. The Queen has now left hospital."

The commotion served merely to underscore the esteem in which the country holds Elizabeth II, who was crowned 62 years ago. News about her health is followed closely.

"During a technical rehearsal for an obituary, tweets were mistakenly sent from the account of a BBC journalist saying that a member of the royal family had been taken ill," the BBC said in a statement.

"The tweets were swiftly deleted and we apologize for any offence."

The journalist, Ahmen Khawaja, is facing disciplinary action. She apologized for what she described as a "false alarm."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Polish President-elect Andrzej Duda celebrates his surprise win as early exit polls come in on May 24. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Voters defy predictions

POLLING

Forecasters failed to gauge Israel, Poland, U.K. elections

These are tough times for political pollsters.

In recent elections in Israel, Britain and Poland, pre-election polls failed spectacularly to predict actual results, sending shock waves through entire nations on election night. Now many research pollsters are analyzing these fiascos in search of ways to do better.

In Britain, Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservatives won a clear victory on May 7 after polls had predicted a near-tie with Labour, generating expectations of a hung parliament. A day after the election, the British Polling Council launched an inquiry into the polls' inaccuracies.

In Poland, the Association of Market and Opinion Research Organizations, said that it plans to carry out a similar evaluation after a presidential election in which the incumbent, Bronislaw Komorowski, lost to a little-known challenger, following surveys that for months suggested an easy re-election.

In Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party won after polls showed the opposition Zionist Union ahead. Leading pollsters in Israel said the discrepancy had more to do with last-minute voter shifts than with any flaws in the polls.

So far, there are no clear conclusions on where thing went wrong in Poland and the U.K.

But experts point to several factors — a key one being political correctness. In short, people lie to pollsters because they are ashamed to admit their true intentions.

In Poland, people may have been embarrassed to admit they were voting for the right-wing presidential challenger, saying instead they supported the more moderate incumbent.

In Britain, there appears to be the phenomenon of "shy Tories" — people who secretly intended to vote Conservative, a party still stigmatized as "mean," telling pollsters they'll vote for the more socially progressive Labour.

Professor Leighton Vaughan Williams, director of the Betting Research Unit and the Political Forecasting Unit at Nottingham Business School, also points to how lack of enthusiasm in one camp can distort polling data. He spoke of a "lethargic Labour" effect in Britain, with Labour Party voters not turning out in the expected numbers.

"They stayed home. They weren't lying to the pollsters but, in a sense, they were lying to themselves," he said.

In Britain's election, the bookies proved to be a much more accurate predictor of the election results than opinion polls. Vaughan Williams explained that the betting markets are more accurate because they take account of all polls as well as other information.

"The betting market is like one mind that combines the collective wisdom of everybody," he said.

Polling insiders say they have been aware for years of methodological pitfalls of their research and constantly seek ways to overcome them.

One problem is the falling number of households with home phones, which most pollsters call. That could skew results by leaving out younger voters more likely to have only cellphones.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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U.S. city leaders keen on sharing economy

PEER-TO-PEER SERVICES

But two-thirds are worried about safety, survey finds

American cities are enticed by the economic growth and services that "sharing economy" companies such as Airbnb, Uber and Lyft can offer, but officials are anxious about safety in a largely unregulated realm, a city advocacy group found in a study released Wednesday.

Nearly three-quarters of city leaders said they want to see the "sharing" sector grow, according to National League of Cities survey responses from 245 leaders of municipalities large and small.

Yet nearly two-thirds said they were concerned about the safety of using apps and websites that let everyday people rent out rooms, arrange car rides and provide other services to strangers. More than half the cities said they imposed no rules on "sharing" players, though their traditional counterparts — like hotels and taxi companies — often are regulated.

While 71 per cent of cities said they supported sharing-economy growth, leaders embrace ride-hailing apps more readily than short-term home rentals, by 66 per cent to 44 per cent. In general, cities see the biggest benefits as improved services (rated No. 1 one by 22 per cent) and economic expansion (20 per cent). Smaller numbers cited entrepreneurship, efficiency, tourism and constituents' enthusiasm.

Sixty-one per cent of cities said safety was their top concern about peer-to-peer services. Just 10 per cent or fewer named any other potential problem.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

While the traditional taxi industry opposes ride-share companies, most of the 245 U.S. city leaders polled said they want to see the "sharing economy" grow. SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

MUSIC

Apple set to launch streaming service

Apple is reportedly ready to unveil its new streaming music service next week at the company's annual Worldwide Developer Conference.

Reportedly called Apple Music, the new product is based on Beats Music service which the company acquired in August 2014 for $3 billion US.

While it feels like Apple is arriving late to a market with many streaming services, there is still a large opportunity. Market leader Spotify claims 60 million users worldwide, but only 15 million of those are actually paid subscriptions.

By comparison, there are more than 800 million iTunes accounts, which gives Apple a huge amount of leverage. The company is hoping to convert its customers who download music into music streamers.

But that's a tall order. Apple Music reportedly will cost $10 a month (like Spotify Premium or Deezer Premium), meaning a year of streaming would cost $120. According to the Wall Street Journal, of the 110 million iTunes users in the U.S., most currently spend only about $30 on the service.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Families net worth up 73%

Statistics Canada says the average net worth of Canadian families rose 73 per cent between 1999 and 2012 to an average of $554,100 from $319,800. The top 20 per cent saw their net worth rise 80 per cent, climbing from $721,900 to $1,300,100.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

market minute

DOLLAR 80.30¢ (-0.29¢)

TSX 15,154.68 (+49.94)

OIL $59.64 US (-$1.62)

GOLD $1,184.90 US (-$9.50)

NATURAL GAS: $2.634 US (-6.4¢)
DOW JONES: 18,076.27 (+64.33)

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE TALKS

Oil, gas firms demonize coal

Chemistry books say there are three fossil fuels: coal, oil and natural gas. Lately you could get the impression that coal is the only one.

As a global agreement to rein in climate-warming carbon emissions draws closer, oil and gas companies are increasingly talking about coal as the problem and describing themselves as a crucial part of the solution, together with renewable energy sources like wind and solar power.

"We stand ready to play our part," six major European oil and gas companies including Royal Dutch Shell and BP said in a recent letter to UN climate officials working on a major climate deal set to be adopted in Paris in December.

40%

About 40 per cent of global power comes from coal plants, many in energy-hungry economies like China and India.

As they see it, their part includes gobbling up coal's market share in power generation.

The coal industry has resisted counter-strikes against its fellow fossil fuels, opting instead to highlight new technologies that improve the efficiency of coal-fired power plants or capture their CO_2 emissions.

The split in the fossil fuel family represents a shift from the last time the world negotiated a climate agreement, the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. Back then, big oil and coal companies had more of a united front.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOME FURNISHINGS

Retailers fight for millennials

Canadian home furnishing and decor retailers facing tough economic challenges are beefing up their e-commerce offerings to appeal to tech-savvy millennial shoppers who shop online, or browse sites before choosing which stores to visit and where to spend their money.

Like the women's fashion sector, Canadian home furnishing companies are facing intensified competition from large foreign brands, including Pottery Barn, Pier 1 Imports, Bed, Bath and Beyond, TJX-owned HomeSense, Costco and Walmart.

Each is trying to adapt by having a strong network of stores while building web sales.

In the U.S., kitchen retailer Williams-Sonoma, which started as a catalogue company and now owns Pottery Barn, has been the most successful, drawing more than half of its overall sales online.

North of the border, retailers have taken notice, and are trying to boost online sales by offering free shipping to either the nearest store or directly to a shopper's home. Canadian Tire is working on getting a revamped e-commerce platform back online after scrapping its old one in 2009.

Swedish giant IKEA is testing a new pick-up concept where online purchases can be picked up from small showrooms or collection locations in cities far from the nearest store. Canada is one of five test countries. Pick-up centres that will also sell fewer than 100 products will open by year-end in Quebec City and London, Ont.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, June 4, 2015

CHANTAL HÉBERT: ON TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Did I mention an inspiring ceremony and more than a few solemn commitments followed the (1996) Erasmus-Dussault report? To look at this week's headlines and the fresh start they allude to is to take a trip back in time.

Underwhelmed by Prime Minister Stephen Harper's noncommittal response to the remedial prescriptions of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission? Consider this: When Jean Chrétien was handed a similarly devastating royal commission report, it took him a year to respond with a formal apology for the mistreatment of Canada's aboriginal peoples.

It was another seven years before the ruling Liberals put together a comprehensive action plan.

Set up in the dying days of Brian Mulroney's tenure, the royal commission headed by George Erasmus and René Dussault spent five years on the report it handed the Chrétien government in 1996.

At 4,000 pages, it set a royal commission record as the most voluminous of its kind.

There were suggestions this week that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission — with 94 recommendations — has taken on more than anyone could chew. But Erasmus and Dussault had 400 recommendations.

As a measure of progress, the lesser number of prescriptions of this week's commission report is a red herring. The two commissions came at the issue from different angles and there were 20 years between them, but their core findings are depressingly similar.

Did I mention that an inspiring ceremony and more than a few solemn commitments marked the politically well-attended publication of the Erasmus-Dussault report? To look at this week's headlines and the fresh start they allude to is to take a trip back in time.

The fiscal climate was not auspicious for the 20-year plan the Dussault-Erasmus commission put forward in 1996. The federal budget was still awash in red ink. The report came a year after the Quebec referendum, at a time when the Chrétien government had its hands full with the unity file.

It was almost another decade before the federal government under Paul Martin teamed up with the provinces and the aboriginal leadership to come up with a comprehensive response.

By that time, Canada has raked in budget surpluses for a number of years. Among other things, the ruling Liberals delivered tax cuts for all, a new child benefit for families, a major reinvestment in health care and seed money for a national child-care initiative before they turned their attention to the aboriginal file and the 2005 negotiation of the Kelowna Accord.

At that point, they were on their last legs in power. Martin's minority government took the Kelowna Accord to its opposition grave a few months later.

All comparisons have limitations, but the repeat false starts on the aboriginal front — which also include at least two failed constitutional attempts — stand in sharp contrast with the energy marshalled on other Canadian game-changing policies.

Take Canada's transition to linguistic duality.

Alarmed by the rise of Quebec nationalism, Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson set up the royal commission on bilingualism and biculturalism in 1963.

In an interim report published in two years later, it drew a less than flattering portrait of the country's linguistic landscape and the second-class status of the French language and those who spoke it in Quebec and elsewhere in Canada.

By the time of its official report in 1969, Parliament was already moving forward with the Official Languages Act. Ontario had set out to expand its French-language school system. The first French immersion schools were about to open.

Or take, on another front, the social policy revolution that was the introduction of a national medicare system in the 1960s. It took about a decade for Canada to implement it in every province.

As comprehensive as the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission may be, is anyone really arguing that their implementation would require more heavy lifting than that involved in putting French on a more equal footing with English within Canada's institutions and education systems?

Their price tag pales in comparison with the start-up cost of a coast-to-coast-to-coast universal healthcare system.

This is a federation that has largely managed to talk its way out of serious unity challenges and come up with an intercultural model that, while not perfect, works better than most.

But at the same time, inertia has increasingly become the default response of governments to both emerging and enduring challenges.

And that begs one question: When did Canada lose the political will to change its ways?

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

THE MICROTREND: Turning off the tap

Californians cut their water use **13.5 per cent** in April compared to the same month in 2013 — impressive, but short of the target of up to **36 per cent** in some communities. By law, businesses, farms and families are all watching their water waste. Mandatory restrictions are in place to help the state get through the worst drought in its history.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

The Briefcase is a twisted new low for reality television

"What would you do if $101,000 landed on your doorstep?"

That, in a honey-toned voice-over, is the premise of a new reality TV series that makes me want to puke.

The Briefcase exploits families in financial hardship by offering them money, and then forcing them to choose whether to be generous and give the cash to others who are also struggling.

"They'll learn it's not the money, but the journey that will teach them what they value most," the voice-over intones.

What a twisted new low for reality TV.

Disclaimer: I don't like watching obese British teens hunt in a Borneo jungle (Can Fat Teens Hunt?) or Swedes navigate life without democracy (Dictator).

But I get that many people do. Reality TV shows were three of the top five programs watched in Canada in late May, according to Numeris. That's despite a ratings dip in the U.S., where slick dramas are pulling in top advertising dollars.

"Reality TV isn't going anywhere," Stuart Coxe, a reality TV producer and owner of Antica Productions, told me, "mostly because people watch it."

That's true for The Briefcase, which drew 6.87 million viewers to its premiere last week, according to AdWeek.

"Like it or not, there's some entertainment value," said AdWeek editor Lisa Granatstein.

I definitely do not like it.

But this isn't a hate-on for all reality TV. I don't, as Coxe describes the non-viewers, "assume it's an incredibly vulgar, demeaning thing that's corroding our culture."

"(It) actually deals with a lot more facets of the modern condition more quickly than scripted (TV) can," he argues.

The most popular shows also "play up the dignity of ordinary people and have more of a redemptive narrative," he said.

The Briefcase is certainly angling for redemption, mixing sentimental guitar riffs under people crying at the thought of financial stability. But it won't work.

Reality shows create a moral universe, Coxe noted, and the Briefcase's universe is way off.

In it, poverty's ills aren't alleviated by health care, jobs or housing — but by a generous heart. In it, the only truly good people are the monk-like selfless poor.

That is crazy, especially since CBS, which makes the show, took in $13.81 billion in revenue last year.

For the low price of $101,000 per family, CBS hopes to be even richer.

Don't help it. Watch MasterChef instead.

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Cameron Crowe apologizes for casting Emma Stone as part-Asian character in Aloha

The casual revolution

It's fashionable to be comfortable ... call it 'comfortcore'

EVA LAM/METRO

Who says you have to suffer for fashion? "Comfort" is the buzzword in style these days — comfortcore, if you will — as more and more women choose to kick up (and off) their heels in oversized knits, drawstring bottoms and the ever-practical sneaker.

"Casual and 'athleisure' have taken on a life of their own," declared the NPD Group in a report showing a one per cent increase in total U.S. apparel, footwear and accessories sales from 2013 to 2014 — an additional $2 billion the market researchers attributed largely to growth in sales of activewear, athletic performance footwear, and bags.

The spillover of the dressed-down look from the gym to the streets reflects a change in the way we look at fitness and health, says Alexandra Grant, fashion and lifestyle blogger at To Vogue or Bust. "Fitness and health have had this almost renaissance in terms of being stylish," she says, and back in vogue is the athletic body type exalted in the '80s and early '90s before the waif fad took hold. "I think as health in general and a healthy body type has had a resurgence, people are also celebrating that sort of casual dress that goes with it."

So how does one do comfortcore? Here's a roundup of essentials:

1 Cargo and go

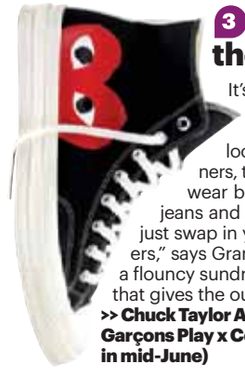
The military-style jacket offers coverage against the elements and a relaxed feel — but don't go overboard with the rugged theme. As Grant says, "The best way to do (the athleisure trend) is to really not alter the rest of your look at all; just infuse one piece at a time." Matching a boxy jacket with a sleek top and heels will ensure you look ready to hit the boardwalk, not the barracks.

>> Intrepid jacket by Gentle Fawn, $145

2 Room to breathe

The skinny pant may be ubiquitous, but when it comes to comfort, it's hard to beat the drawstring pant — loose-fitting, lightweight and, best of all, adjustable. Go from lounging on the couch to stepping out for brunch in a cinch, pun intended.

>> Mojave pant by Gentle Fawn, $105



3 Summer of the sneaker

It's more fun hitting the hot pavement in a sturdy pair of kicks — and it's an easy look for comfortcore beginners, too. "If you would typically wear ballet slippers with skinny jeans and a leather jacket, you can just swap in your New Balance sneakers," says Grant. Pairing high-tops with a flouncy sundress also offers a contrast that gives the outfit a visual pop.

>> Chuck Taylor All Star '70 by Comme des Garçons Play x Converse, $155 (available in mid-June)

4 That '80s look

Like the jumpsuit and prodigious shoulder pads before it, the slouchy sweater has risen from the neon-coloured ashes of the MTV decade. "I love the look of oversized, sort of '80s-inspired sweaters, just the really classic grey fleece ones," says Grant. She suggests pairing it with leather leggings in the winter, and in the summer, a feminine skirt or shorts — anything with "that kind of delicate touch to it, to give it a nice balance."

>> Aloma crew sweatshirt by Roots, $74

5 They've got you covered

Did someone say granny panties? That's right — the comfortcore movement is underway among undies too, with a burgeoning market for fuller, high-waisted styles.

>> Feminist underwear by Me and You, $25 US

6 Layers, layers, layers

According to Grant, a big part of making the gym-to-street look work is layering. Besides the functionality of being able to quickly transition between settings, it also adds visual interest, she says. A favourite athleisure piece of Grant's is the sports bra, which she likes to pair with a sheer low-cut tank top, or a high-waisted skirt with a jacket thrown over top.

>> Lane Racerback Bra by Cory Vines, $36

7 Neat little package

Accessories are keeping it casual, too. "Incorporating a backpack into your look is really on-trend right now," says Grant. "It encourages you to move a bit more — get on your bike and look stylish while doing it."

>> City backpack by Herschel Supply, $49.99

ME AND YOU PHOTO: MAYAN TOLEDANO; ALL OTHER PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Fan fic that gives a royal fug

SUMMER READING

Fug Girls take Will and Kate's romance for a novel romp

Henrietta Walmark
Metro | Life

When a little Kate Middleton fan fiction sweeps you off your feet and leaves you curled up on the loveseat binge-reading for the better part of the first gorgeous long weekend of the year, you know you've found the perfect summer read.

That was me on Victoria Day weekend, being royally entertained by The Royal We, a fictionalized recap of a decade-long royal romance, on a holiday honouring a 19th-century royal.

Leave it to Heather Cocks and Jessica Morgan, the "fashion assassins" behind the delightfully snarky celebrity style blog Go Fug Yourself, to take the most talked-about romance of this century and twist it into a page turner of a novel. (Full disclosure: I once tweeted @fuggirls a photo of Kate looking impossibly elegant mid-air while playing field hockey in a tartan McQ by McQueen coatdress.)

> **We felt very free to just start making stuff up**
> Co-author Jessica Morgan

Cocks and Morgan's The Royal We (Grand Central Publishing, $29) reimagines Will and Kate's story with American exchange student Rebecca as the commoner who finds herself falling for Prince Nicholas, heir to the British throne, when she spends a year at Oxford.

The idea of turning a fairy tale come true back into fiction arose organically out of a conversation the authors had with their agent, Morgan says, in a phone interview from Los Angeles.

"At the time we were just shooting the breeze talking about Kate Middleton. She makes everything look very easy, but we were saying that the reality can't be easy. It must be very difficult to live in that bright a spotlight," says Morgan.

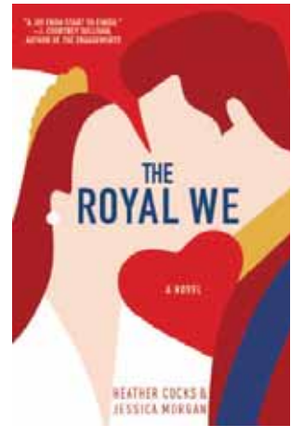
"We started talking about how surreal it must have been for her to go from being a wealthy person — but a very regular middle-class, civilian girl — to being married to Prince William and what that transition must have been like for her."

The Royal We is based on Kate and William, she says, "but once we started writing it, Nick and Bex became their own people for us. We used the main signposts of their relationship, the length of it, the meeting at university but, obviously, none of us really know what happens behind closed doors."

"Because so much of the book is about their private life I think we felt very free to just start making stuff up."

Bex has a twin sister, Lacey, and Nick a roguish younger brother named Freddie — siblings who create complications for the couple — and there is, of course, Nick and Freddie's rather formidable grandmother, Queen Eleanor, all Royal We characters who are clearly based in fact.

Kate and William on their wedding day. GETTY IMAGES



Authors Heather Cocks, left, and Jessica Morgan. INSTAGRAM

"But the tertiary royal family characters are very fictional," says Morgan.

"I think if William and Kate were to read the book — which obviously I hope they're reading it right now," Morgan says, laughing, "I think they would like it.

"It's a sympathetic take on what they go through, actually."

The Royal We is the first adult novel for Cocks and Morgan. In addition to creating Go Fug Yourself, the duo have also co-authored two young adult books, Spoiled and Messy.

The pair met online when they were both writing for Television Without Pity, now defunct, but in the early 2000's the big clearing-house for recaps on the Internet.

When Heather got a job in Los Angeles, Morgan says, "I was like, I'll take you out for a drink, and I did. The rest is history. We really hit it off. We've been friends ever since."

And co-writers.

"People wonder how we do it," says Morgan. "For us it really doesn't feel that unnatural simply because we've worked together for so long. On the blog, our 11th birthday — Canada Day, actually — is coming up, and so it doesn't feel that strange for us."

"We have the whole book plotted out very, very carefully. And then we trade. I will write until I get sick of writing, working on a couple of chapters," says Morgan. "Then I'll give it to Heather.

"Heather will edit what I wrote, and then she'll write a big old chunk and she'll send it back me, and we'll start the cycle all over again. So we are writing solitarily but we just trade back and forth," she says. "It's like we didn't each write half the book, we each wrote the whole book."

"You don't want to get your writing partner's chunk back and realize she's killed off someone you need for later," Morgan says, laughing.

That attention to detail not only grounds the story but gives The Royal We its zing. Bex and Nick bond over junk treats and Netflix binges of a trash TV show, long before she falls for him. That the course of their love doesn't run smooth is a given. It's the naughty and darker bits that are unexpectedly nice.

The Royal We is a confection of a tale, but a satisfying one, a romantic romp carried by Cocks and Morgan's storytelling.

Morgan says they will write another novel, although they're still caught up in The Royal We after the book's very tight turnaround; Morgan and Cocks handed in the final copy edit in January and the book came out in April.

"We're still coming out of our fog. We're still living in our fictional land, so we haven't really nailed down what we're going to do next," she says. "Definitely we'll write another book, absolutely, but we don't know what yet."

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Math and science tell great stories, too

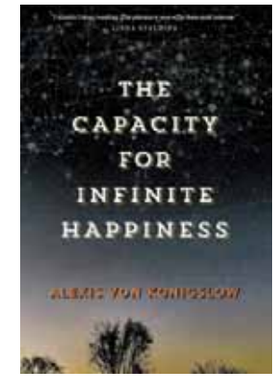
DEBUT WORKS

Authors credit literary success to methodical background

BOOKWORM

Sue Carter

Irina Kovalyova says her robust academic background, including a doctoral degree in microbiology and an MFA in creative writing, inspired her to write Specimen. CONTRIBUTED



A Botox injection dramatically transforms the personality of an unhappy woman. After discovering her birth was the result of artificial insemination, an angry teenager hires a detective to find her donor father. While many characters in Irina Kovalyova's whip-smart debut story collection Specimen struggle with identity, the Vancouver author couldn't escape her own training as a scientist.

"I write about what defines us or what we think defines us. But it's very much science-informed," Kovalyova says.

Growing up in Belarus, Kovalyova started writing stories when she was only six. She was later drawn to early 20th-century Russian and British avant-garde fiction and sci-fi.

"I really liked the possibilities of science and what it can do and the future it offered," she says.

In high school, Kovalyova discovered chemistry.

"I loved the explosions and mixing things to create something new," she says.

Beyond the fact that Kovalyova, who now lives in Vancouver, gets up at 4 a.m. daily to write, her resumé is exhausting. After studying chemistry in Moscow, she moved to the U.S., receiving her Master's degree from Brown University, then a doctoral degree in microbiology from Queen's University, followed by an MFA in creative writing from UBC.

But it's her interactions with students at Simon Fraser University — where she's currently a professor — that most inspired Specimen, published by House of Anansi Press.

Kovalyova credits the dystopian story "Peptide p," written as a scientific report tracking a bizarre disease that attacks children who ate hot dogs, as stemming from her teaching of writing in science.

Like Kovalyova, Toronto author Alexis von Konigslow's training in math and physics at Queen's University partly inspired her debut novel, The Capacity for Infinite Happiness, published by Buckrider Books. Set at a summer resort — based on the Muskoka Lodge, a Jewish vacation spot owned by von Konigslow's family in the 1920s and '30s — the story follows Emily Kogan, a mathematician researching the social network of her Russian-immigrant family.

Von Konigslow says, "There's an elegance and simplicity and beauty to math that's hard to explain. It's very similar to writing: it has its own vocabulary and way of asking and answering questions."

In a parallel storyline, The Capacity for Infinite Happiness travels back to reveal Emily's dark family secrets, intertwined with those of their famous guests: the comedic Marx Brothers.

Sue Carter is editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

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From the Land of Living Skies to sea

LITERATURE

Canadian-born author comes home with her debut novel

Emily Laurence
Metro in New York City

Main: U.K.-based author Emma Hooper's debut novel (inset) takes readers on a journey. MARTIN TOMPKINS/CONTRIBUTED

Emma Hooper's much-lauded debut novel, Etta and Otto and Russell and James, started out a very different book than it turned out to be.

The book follows Etta, a woman in her 80s, who rises one morning to walk across Canada's prairies all the way until she sees the ocean. By way of an explanation, she leaves a note to her husband Otto and some recipes, so he can cook for himself.

"Originally, I had Otto going on the journey," said Hooper. "Then I had a feminist realization that I was doing that as a socially imposed automatic reaction where the man does (his) thing and the woman waits. I thought it would be much more interesting if I swapped it around."

Hooper had her own Etta-like journey, albeit on a smaller scale. The author participated in the Land's End to John O'Groats bike ride in England, an 875-mile trek that takes almost three months to complete.

"I loved spending all day just moving forward," said Hooper. "I just like that goal, to always move forward."

That said, Hooper was not a fan of camping at night and trying to find a semi-dry place to lay her head. She said she spent the tour perpetually cold and wet.

"That's why I gave Etta a summer journey in Canada," she said.

Despite her trip, Hooper said she doesn't necessarily feel more connected to Etta than the book's other three lead characters. The novel is told through multiple narratives, which Hooper said gave her momentum as a writer.

"I think I'm just a distractible human," she said. "I liked jumping between them because if I ran out of something to say from one character's point of view, I could just be one of the other characters for a while."

Chris Brown is a bad passenger

SMH

Singer berates 'old ass' flight attendant, tries to hotbox plane

IN HOLLYWOOD

Ned Ehrbar

Chris Brown. ALL PHOTOS GETTY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chris Brown really needs to work on his people skills.

In the latest round of faux pas by the embattled singer, Brown reportedly made life hell for the crew of a private jet.

The singer apparently was "smoking a ton of pot" despite FAA regulations and requests he stop, according to Us Weekly.

"He blew smoke at a flight attendant and said, 'I paid $60,000 for this jet, so I own it and everyone inside,'" a source says.

He also took aim at another flight attendant: "He told her, 'What is your old ass doing here anyway? I like to have the help be people I'd actually like to f—," the source adds.

Charming, that one.

Also, Chris? Hotboxing a jet and being a jerk to the crew is basically where Justin Bieber was behaviour-wise more than a year ago, so step up your game. And another thing, someone needs to tell him that a private jet — not to mention the people inside — costs much more than 60 grand, so really he was more renting everyone inside of it.

ONCE A CHEATER...

Stripper advises Jennifer Garner to 'run' from Affleck

How do you know your marriage is in trouble? When a stripper purported to be involved in your husband's last big breakup is chiming in — on the record, using her real name — about how you should kick him to the curb.

"I can't say I'm surprised," Tammy Morris tells the National Enquirer when told about rumours that Ben Affleck and Jennifer Garner are headed for a split.

"I believe 'once a cheater always a cheater.' My advice to Jen is: Run!"

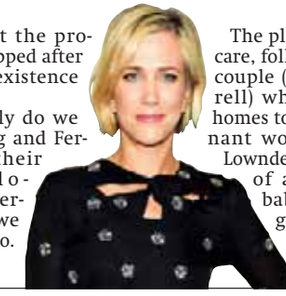
Morris gained some notoriety 12 years ago when she went on the record claiming Affleck had cheated on then-fiancée Jennifer Lopez with her.

For her part, Morris is really just disappointed in Affleck, which is kind of the icing on the cake here.

"I was really hoping Ben had turned his life around," she says. "He married the all-American girl. It's too bad he couldn't make it work." Oof.

A DEADLY ADOPTION

Wiig's Lifetime movie back on



Don't worry, fans of ridiculous camp, that top-secret Lifetime movie starring Will Ferrell and Kristen Wiig that wasn't going to happen is apparently actually going to happen again. And soon.

A billboard for A Deadly Adoption featuring the two stars popped up in L.A. this week with an airdate of June 20, despite claims by Ferrell in April that the project was scrapped after news of its existence leaked.

So not only do we still get Wiig and Ferrell doing their best melodramatic overacting, but we get it soon, too. Score.

The plot, in case you care, follows a married couple (Wiig and Ferrell) who open their homes to a young pregnant woman (Jessica Lowndes) in the hopes of adopting her baby, but things go terribly, terribly wrong, naturally.

I AM CAIT

E! releases promo for Caitlyn Jenner documentary series

Caitlyn Jenner SCREENSHOT

The E! Entertainment network says its documentary series on Caitlyn Jenner premiering next month will be titled I Am Cait, and is showing a promo video for the series depicting her applying makeup.

The Olympic champion is featured in an eight-episode series depicting her transition from a man to a woman that will debut July 26.

E! ramped up promotion Wednesday by releasing a video of Jenner applying lipstick while sitting at a makeup table. She says for the first time a professional had come in and applied makeup for her. "What a difference," she says.

While driving near her California home in the video, Jenner declares: "I'm the new normal."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro HOME
Your essential daily news
Replacing locks and door handles is one way to impact the look of a space

Tech behind units of the future

CONDOS

Office towers could be repurposed for community

CONDO TRENDS
Duncan McAllister

The new film Tomorrowland premiered in theatres last week, and audiences got a taste of the whimsical, futuristic city of needle-shaped skyscrapers and flying cars.

What is now science fiction is poised to become reality sooner than you might expect, as new technological innovations become standard fare for Canadian homes.

Architects and manufacturers are collaborating with the real-estate and construction industries to devise advanced new products and building materials. Condominiums of the future will be geared towards convenience, safety and the security of their occupants.

Canadian architectural firm Onespace Unlimited specializes in hotel and condominium projects across the country. In one future-looking concept, the company reimagined a financial district 100 years from now. OneVision is a Tomorrowland-like community where skyscraper office towers are converted into vertical cities, replete with interconnecting skyways, helicopter landing pads and aerial parks.

In the acclaimed 1970s book Future Shock, futurist Alvin Toffler envisioned residents living in vacant office towers. Fast-forward 40 years and Onespace president Rod Rowbotham says it's happening now. He imagines a highly connected world where there's no need to travel or "gather" at a place of work.

"At a moment's notice, you can be sitting in your living room with multiple translucent displays and you can be talking to people in all parts of the country."

> **The condo market is a little slow moving when it comes to adapting to technology**
> Onespace Unlimited president Rod Bowbotham

As a result, he adds, there will be a lot of surplus office towers, repurposed for community use. Imagine a police station on the 51st floor of a building, for example. "We don't look at architecture as a result of something. Whatever shapes it is happening because of us as people."

Rowbotham says that although the condo industry is slow to adapt, these amazing advances are just around the corner.

"All of that interesting technology is out there, but it's not in practice yet. The condo market is a little slow moving when it comes to adapting to technology."

With the evolution of the Internet of things, übersmart, network-connected appliances will be standard features in every condo. Software systems are now available that monitor all the devices in your home.

Nest Labs is a pioneer in the area of home automation. Spokesperson Zoz Cuccias says the company has made its innovative learning technology open to independent developers.

ABOVE: A concept by Onespace Unlimited that reimagines the transformation of financial districts into vertical cities with dense living spaces connected by transportation networks.

RIGHT: Talk to your fridge? There's an app for that. LG HomeChat literally lets you chat with your appliances from your mobile device.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

COMING SOON

Technologies to feature in new developments

Self-healing paint
Imagine your condo painted so you'd never have to touch up scratches again. New paint technologies that employ self-healing polymers are already available on the market.

Solar panel windows
Researchers have developed a fully transparent solar cell that could turn every window into an energy source. The technology also lends itself to exterior siding and pavement. Think of all those condo windows as a mini power plant.

Smart elevators
To save energy, the lights and fan won't run until there are people in the cab. Also, there won't be any buttons to push. That's because the intuitive elevator will know where you intend to go. If you live in the penthouse, the system can use GPS to tell when you're arriving and summon the car to the ground floor.

Car-charging stations
Builders are pre-wiring underground parking lots with electric-car charging stations. DUNCAN McALLISTER

DECOR

Bouquet of fresh floral prints brings spring indoors

Floral motifs pop up every spring in home-furnishing collections, but this year, there seem to be more of them than ever, and they feel particularly fresh.

New York interior designer Elaine Griffin says it began a few seasons back with a movement toward kinder, gentler silhouettes and patterns.

"Design has been trending toward a subtle but high-impact femininity," she says.

Floral chintz is back from the 1980s, but it's a looser, more relaxed version. And the cottage prints that in the past could be dowdy are more lighthearted. Also in the mix: bold, geometric flower motifs and ethnic floral patterns.

Some vintage prints reinterpret florals through a mid-century lens for a fresh take on both styles. But you'll also find more painterly designs, with a wistful watercolour look.

The new florals can go just about anywhere, says Griffin.

"For conservative spaces, co-ordinate complementary fabrics with the darkest hue in the floral," she says. "For zippier, more modern rooms, bring out the brightest hues of the pattern."

She advises making oversize floral patterns the star of the room. Pair them with textured solids or subtle stripes, and don't overdo it by adding a bunch of distracting prints.

Be mindful where you plant your flowers, too.

"Avoid florals on big and long-lived upholstered pieces like sofas," says Griffin. "They're a better bet for armchairs, ottomans and window treatments, which you can change more easily if you tire of the pattern."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A bucket chair gets the floral treatment. HOMEGOODS VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A lavender bloom stars in this bedding set. HOMEGOODS VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A demitasse features fresh green and white. HOMEGOODS VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro SPORTS

"This is probably the best I've been" — LeBron James on the eve of the NBA Finals

Thursday, June 4, 2015

Her few words have kick

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

When Sinclair speaks her teammates pay attention

John Herdman usually doesn't speak to his team in the locker-room after games. The Canadian women's soccer coach prefers to talk later, when heads are cooler.

But in the wake of the crushing 4-3 extra-time loss to the United States in the semifinals at the 2012 Olympics, Herdman knew he had to say something sooner than later. As he walked through the tunnels toward the dressing room at Old Trafford, Herdman told team psychiatrist Ceri Evans his plan.

"He said, 'Look, I think you're right. Let's script some things and make sure we get the message right, because you won't get another chance at this,'" Herdman recalled.

As they approached the dressing room, equipment manager Maeve Glass came out. She was crying.

"She said 'Look, you don't need to go in there, it's done ... Christine (captain Christine Sinclair) just spoke to the team in a way she's never spoke to them before.' And there wasn't a dry eye in the room."

Said goalie Erin McLeod: "I get emotional every time I think about the speech."

The team huddled up. "You could hear a pin drop," said McLeod. And Sinclair, who scored all three Canadian goals that night in a memorable performance, rallied her troops.

Following a heartbreaking loss in the semifinals of the 2012 Olympics, captain Christine Sinclair rallied Canada to a bronze medal. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

"I just remember sitting in the locker-room at Old Trafford," Sinclair recalled. "Just everyone was heartbroken, rightfully so. Myself included. After a couple of minutes, it sort of hit me that three days from now we're playing for a bronze medal. Just this feeling came over me that I had to say something to this team.

"And I told them I had never been more proud to be their teammate. That the end result didn't happen against the Americans but I've never been more proud to wear that shirt. And that if heading into London, somebody would have said 'You're going to be playing for a bronze medal,' we would have taken it in a heartbeat. And I'm not leaving London without one.

153

Sinclair, who turns 32 on June 12, has 153 goals in 223 appearances.

"I don't know. It just had to be said. Cool if it had an impact on people."

It's typically modest Sinclair, who avoids the spotlight as if it was toxic. She likes to reduce her leadership skills to little more than leading by example. But her post-game address at the Theatre of Dreams sparked the team.

> **"She'll let other people take the lead in general but when something needs to be said, she's the first to say it.**
> Rhian Wilkinson

The Canadian women picked themselves off the floor and went on to defeat France 1-0 for the bronze medal thanks to a Diana Matheson goal in stoppage time.

The medal came 13 months after Canada finished dead last at the 2011 World Cup.

She's no ranter, says Herdman. She leads in a very subtle way.

"And I think often the best leaders, they don't say much but when they speak, people listen. Because they don't say much.

"And Christine works like that. She always says, 'My leadership is in what you see out on the pitch. I lead by example.' But she's more than that. And I think what she's developed in the time I've been there is knowing that her voice has a huge impact on this team and there are moments she has to step up."

Canada, ranked eighth in the world, kicks off the Women's World Cup against No. 16 China on Saturday in Edmonton.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Retirement awaits ex-FIFA World Player of the Year

Nadine Angerer plans on helping Germany win its third Women's World Cup title. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Goalkeeper Nadine Angerer anchors a German team that is facing challenges and changes.

Ranked No. 1 in the world, the team got stung when Nadine Kessler, the reigning FIFA World Player of the Year, suddenly said she needed knee surgery in March. Then beloved coach Silvia Neid said she would step down next year after 10 years with the team.

And Angerer herself recently announced on her national team's website that she plans to walk away from the game, too, topping off a career that includes her own world player of the year honour.

> **"We have so many talented players, so many young players. So we'll have a strong team.**
> Nadine Angerer

But first she's got another World Cup to win. "I always want to win," she said with a smile.

Angerer begins her quest for another title when Germany opens play in the Women's World Cup on Sunday in Ottawa.

Angerer got her break in the 2007 World Cup in China after goalkeeper Silke Rottenberg tore an ACL. She did not concede a single goal during the tournament, setting a World Cup record for most minutes played (540) without being scored on and Germany won its second and last World Cup title.

A year later, Angerer helped the German team win the bronze medal in the 2008 Beijing Olympics. She was also in goal for European titles in 2009 and 2013. In 2013, she became the first goalkeeper to win FIFA's highest individual award.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Djokovic halts Nadal's Roland Garros dominance

Novak Djokovic ended Rafael Nadal's 39-match French Open winning streak by beating the nine-time champion in a surprisingly lopsided quarterfinal 7-5, 6-3, 6-1 on Wednesday.

It is only the second defeat for Nadal in 72 career matches at Roland Garros — and second in 95 best-of-five-set matches anywhere on red clay.

Andy Murray, who defeated David Ferrer 7-6 (4), 6-2, 5-7, 6-1, awaits Djokovic in the semifinals.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tanaka picks up where he left off as Yanks sweep M's

Garrett Jones and Mark Teixeira homered, Masahiro Tanaka gave up one run over seven innings in his return from the disabled list and the New York Yankees completed a three-game sweep of Seattle Mariners with a 3-1 victory Wednesday.

Tanaka (3-1) made his first start in more than a month and did not miss a beat. Despite being on an 80-pitch limit in his return, Tanaka got through seven innings and struck out nine batters. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blatter receives standing ovation from FIFA staff

A day after announcing his decision to resign, Sepp Blatter was back at work at FIFA headquarters on Wednesday as the corruption crisis continued to unfold.

Interpol added six men with ties to FIFA to its most wanted list, while South African officials denied they made a $10 million bribe to secure the 2010 World Cup.

Staff described Blatter as being emotional during a 10-minutes address, and said he received a standing ovation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

STANLEY CUP

Go to metronews.ca for coverage of Game 1 of the Stanley Cup final on Wednesday night in Tampa, Fla.

MetroTalks Karina LeBlanc

KEVIN TUONG FOR METRO

Canada 'keeper sits down to talk Women's World Cup

Leah Holoiday
Metro | Edmonton

In one month, Karina LeBlanc will hang up her cleats and retire from a 17-year career with the Canadian women's national team.

While the countdown to the close of her career is on — a career that includes an Olympic bronze medal, three Pan American Games and four FIFA Women's World Cup appearances — the Maple Ridge, B.C., product said she has one thing on her mind.

That's Saturday.

The 35-year-old goalkeeper and her teammates begin their 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup campaign on Saturday against China at Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton.

After nearly two decades playing the sport, LeBlanc says not much can phase her. However, preparing for a World Cup on home turf can bring back rookie butterflies.

"I don't think anything ever prepares you for that," LeBlanc said at the Metro Edmonton office on Wednesday. "It's not only the pride and proudness of playing in front of your friends, family and countrymen, but it's the emotions that come with that."

LeBlanc is one of 23 players playing for Canada, ranging in age from 17-year-old newcomer Jessie Fleming, to veterans Rhian Wilkinson, 33 and Melissa Trancredi, 33.

> **It is imperative that people don't show up quiet. They show up loud. They show up in red.**
> Karina LeBlanc

Despite the age gaps, LeBlanc says the team has fully jelled and ready to compete.

"It doesn't matter your age, it doesn't matter your experience, it's the fact that we have this tight family and this family is going to connect in front of the bigger family, which is the country."

The Canadian women's team has come a long way since its struggles at the 2011 World Cup LeBlanc said.

"We gave what we thought was our best and we came dead last," LeBlanc said.

Despite that disappointment, the team was able to regroup and pull together to secure the bronze medal at the 2012 London Olympics.

"It's incredible all of the different emotions (you experience) in a short time, but I think one of the great lessons is that anything is possible if you believe in it," she said.

With nothing on her mind right now except the World Cup (nope, there's no plan for after retirement quite yet), LeBlanc said she'll be looking to the Canadian crowd to push the team into its highest gear.

"It is imperative that people don't show up quiet. They show up loud," LeBlanc said.

"They show up in red.

"There will be moments in this World Cup, where Canadians help us win."

KARINA'S PICKS

Peanut butter or Nutella? Peanut butter

Favourite food? Mango

Favourite drink? Coconut water

Second favourite sport? Basketball

Person you most admire? My parents

Athlete you most admire? Michael Jordan

Favourite match ever? The final of the 2015 Women's World Cup

Favourite hair colour? Red

Hair spray, mousse or cream? Hair spray

Messi or Ronaldo? (Manuel) Neuer, the goalkeeper from Germany

Breakout star of the World Cup? The Canadian women's national team

City you're most excited to play in? Vancouver

World Cup final matchup? Canada versus the next best team

CONTROVERSY

From concerns over artificial turf to FIFA's bribery scandal, controversy has not been in short supply ahead of the Women's World Cup.

But Karina LeBlanc says her mind is only on the field of play.

"We've worked since the last World Cup every single day for this one and I don't think anything is going to take away from that for us," she said.

Much has been made of the artificial turf being used instead of regular grass.

LeBlanc said the team was always prepared.

"I can't speak for other countries," she said. "Every team is going to bring their best and I think every team has dealt with the issues of turf or grass. I know for us, our focus has been on the World Cup."

LeBlanc says she hasn't paid much attention to the high-level bribery scandal amongst FIFA executives.

"I'm not even focused on that, to be honest. I don't think any of the athletes playing in this tournament are focused on that."

RECIPE Shrimp and Macaroni Salad

EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com
@rosereisman

Ready in
Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 8 minutes

Ingredients
- 8 oz macaroni or small shell pasta
- 12 oz peeled and deveined raw shrimp
- ⅓ cup light mayonnaise
- ⅓ cup low-fat sour cream
- ¼ cup sweet tomato chili sauce or ketchup
- ⅓ cup minced green bell pepper
- ⅓ cup minced red bell pepper
- ⅓ cup minced red onion
- ⅓ cup chopped fresh dill or parsley
- pinch freshly ground black pepper

Directions

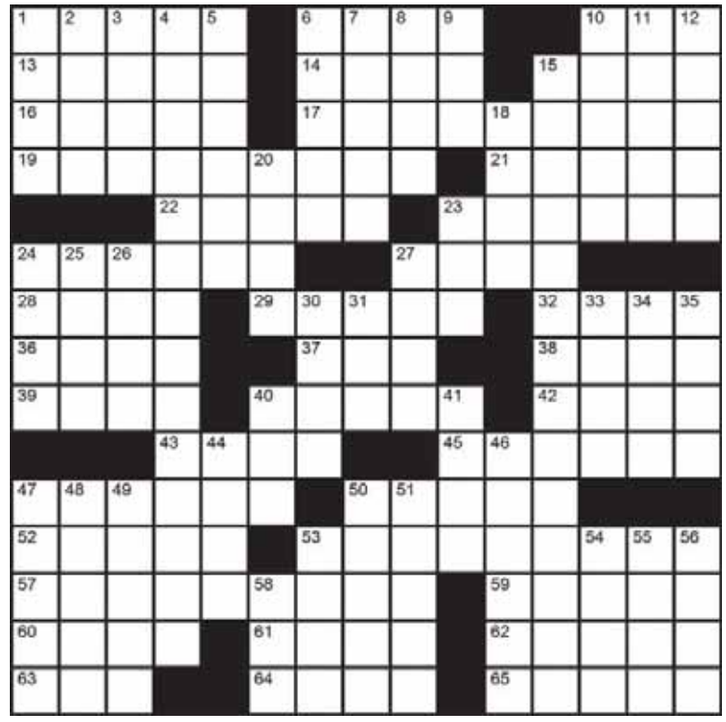
1. Cook the macaroni in a pot of boiling water for eight to 10 minutes, or until tender but firm.
2. Drain, rinse under cold running water and drain thoroughly.
3. If using large or jumbo shrimp, cut into halves. Spray a non-stick skillet with cooking oil and place over medium-high heat. Cook until pink, about two minutes.
4. Combine the mayonnaise, sour cream and chili sauce in a small bowl and mix well.
5. Combine the green and red pepper, onion, dill, pepper, pasta, shrimp and dressing in a serving bowl. Toss to coat well. Chill before serving.

Nutrition per serving
- Calories 394
- Protein 22 g
- Fat 9 g
- Cholesterol 99 mg
- Sodium 283 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Big divide
6. Web address starter
10. 'S' in SPCA [abbr.]
13. Espresso style
14. Cincinnati's home
15. Early helicopter
16. Molecular bits
17. Chapped skin product: 2 wds.
19. Great Big Sea song about a real life Beothuk woman of Newfoundland: "__ Dream"
21. __ & Hawk (Juno-winning band from Winnipeg)
22. Office amounts
23. Ultimate
24. Surrounded by, to The Bard
27. Denpasar is its capital
28. Thought
29. Isolated
32. Voluminous book
36. Fibber
37. __ _ break (Away from one's desk)
38. Majestic
39. Gambler's input
40. Peggys __ Lighthouse (Iconic red-and-white attraction at Peggys Cove)
42. Shindig
43. "__ she blows!"
45. South American wild cat
47. Vintage girdle
50. Pasture place
52. .pdf files program, __ Acrobat
53. Cadbury treat a Viking would love
57. __ __ of Canada = RBC
59. Celine Dion's asset
60. Peanuts character
61. Ballet movement
62. Plaudit
63. Iron's partner
64. Post
65. Slangly-spelled agendas

DOWN
1. Clothed
2. Really don't like
3. Mr. Egoyan
4. Body of water where Peggys Cove is situated: 3 wds.
5. Muddles
6. Boring
7. 1894 Jules Massenet opera
8. Dye
9. Pea's packaging
10. Warfare attack
11. Verbal tests
12. Space object
15. Nova Scotia: Some of the Eastern Shore is composed of this rugged stuff: 2 wds.
18. 'Roof' a room
20. Info
23. Business excess
24. Ms. Kunis
25. Norse deity
26. Orderly
27. __ muffins
30. Broke
31. Singer Ms. DiFranco
33. Iridescent gem
34. Fermented soybean paste
35. Genuine
40. Ms. Benatar
41. Three-__ sloth
44. Scoundrel
46. Fourth wife of Henry VIII, Anne of __ (b.1515 - d.1557)
47. Movie producer Mr. Ponti
48. Stench
49. Rolls-__ (Posh car)
50. "__ __ Acapulco" (1963) starring Elvis Presley
51. Tattooed
53. Corduroy line
54. Nastiness
55. Mil. school
56. Soaks flax
58. Country singer married to actress Kimberly Williams ...his initials-sharers

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
With Mars, your ruler, on such excellent form, how can you possibly fail? This is one of those occasions when you must take risks and when you must push the limits. For you there are no limits, so light up the sky.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You will surprise a few people with your tough guy act today. Usually you are placid in the extreme and rarely raise your voice but over the next 24 hours you will go right the other way. Scream and shout!

Gemini May 22 - June 21
If you push yourself hard now you will accomplish more in the next 24 hours than most people manage in 24 days. You won't lack for energy or passion — and if you use your brains you won't lack for anything.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
If you don't get what you want one way, you will get it another — you are in one of your imperious moods, the kind where you can easily intimidate people. No one says "no" to a Cancer — at least not today.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Don't worry about making mistakes, worry only that you might miss out on a glorious opportunity because you were too timid. If you take a chance it will pay off, even if the odds are stacked against you.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Someone in a position of authority will challenge you to do more and do better today. You will rise to the challenge and show them and the world at large what you can do. Your ambition knows no bounds.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You are in the mood to shock. You want to see the look of amazement on other people's faces when you say or do things they don't approve of. Don't go too far though or even your friends may start to avoid you.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
A falling out of some kind is likely today and it is unlikely to be very pretty. You have had your fill of being pushed around and now certain people need to learn that you can bite as well as bark.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
If you go it alone today you will do okay, but if you work with others you will accomplish ten times as much. Mars urges you to put petty differences aside and join with those who share your ideals.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If you find yourself under pressure today you will most likely have brought it on yourself. You have taken on too many duties recently and now you are starting to pay the price. Cut back on your workload.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You will find yourself drawn to a person who is strong and powerful and the planets indicate you are a good fit creatively. Get together to work on a project that you both find inspiring.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Something has stung you into action and you have every intention of making your mark. Your problem most of the time is that you are too sensitive but that won't be such an issue today.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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